

# The Morning Astorian.

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## CZAR ALONE COULD GIVE THE REASON

Report of Admiral Rojestvensky Was Made Directly to Nicholas, but Department Knows Nothing.

Official Statement of the Affair Will Not Be Made at St. Petersburg Until Today.

## SQUADRON MAY BE ATTACKED

Fear at Russian Capital That Fleet Will Be Set Upon in English Channel as Result of Incident.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 24.—No official or unofficial explanation of the unfortunate affair off Dogger bank is forthcoming up to this time, and the world must wait until tomorrow to hear Rojestvensky's version of the firing upon the British fishermen. Rojestvensky communicated direct with the emperor, but at 11:30 o'clock tonight the admiral announced that it had not received any report. At the same hour the foreign office issued a statement expressing the regrets of the government for the deplorable incident, but explaining that no formal action was possible until Rojestvensky's official report was received.

While no formal action was taken, the deepest regret is expressed in all quarters, and the purpose of the government is found to have been at fault. It is found to have been at fault has been proclaimed at every government apartment. That a horrible blunder has been committed is recognized and deplored everywhere. Nowhere has an attempt been made to justify the firing upon innocent fishermen. It is felt that Rojestvensky is too good a man and officer to be summarily condemned, and it is agreed that he is entitled to a hearing, but even the admiral regretfully acknowledges it is at a loss to admit that an explanation could justify such an apparently cold-blooded act.

It developed during the day that the admiralty had strong reason to believe that an attempt would be made against the squadron during its passage through the great belt or English channel. So specific was the information that even the present crisis has not diverted attention from the possibility of such an attack yet occurring.

The failure of the trawlers to obey the signals from the Russian warships, or the nervousness of some officer who imagined that the fishermen working with their nets in the water were laying mines, may have been responsible for the blunder. As soon as the facts are established it is certain the Russian government will voluntarily offer the fullest reparation.

## THINKS WELL OF MR. FULTON.

San Francisco Man Says Senator Has Great Future Before Him.

United States Senator Fulton spent Sunday at home. He is engaged in a campaign tour of the state and will make an effort to bring Oregon's majority for the republican candidates up to 30,000. The senator has been doing some hard work and the day at home was an acceptable rest for him. He expresses the conviction that Oregon will roll up a handsome majority for Roosevelt, and confidently believes the figure will be 30,000. Sunday night Senator Fulton left again to continue the campaign. He will make addresses at many important points. The senator's recent tour with Senator Fairbanks brought him into national prominence as an orator, and he has been warmly congratulated upon his excellent speeches. E. G. Hurrah, of San Francisco, formerly of Roseburg, this state, writes the Roseburg Plaindealer as follows:

"I am glad to see the Plaindealer advocating so vigorously the election of Theodore Roosevelt and Chas. W. Fairbanks. The latter and your esteemed Senator Fulton, were greeted by an audience here last week of between 11,000 and 12,000 persons. The

meeting was most enthusiastic, and the speakers were greeted with frequent and prolonged applause.

"Charles Fulton, Oregon's junior senator, followed the next vice-president in an eloquent and telling speech. He has grown immensely as an orator. It was my pleasure to hear his voice in the last republican Oregon state convention I was privileged to attend as a representative from old Douglas county in 1886. It is evident that Senator Fulton has a great future before him. His speech here is highly and favorably commented upon by those who heard him.

"I am, however, drifting beyond my original intention. God will speed the battle of the just and brave defenders of the people's cause and lead Roosevelt and Fairbanks on to victory. They will unquestionably guide the great ship of state for four years from March 4, 1905."

## NO FURTHER FIGHTING IS REPORTED FROM FAR EAST.

Opposing Armies Are Within Seven Hundred Yards of Each Other and Are Strengthening Positions.

There has been no resumption of fighting of a general character along the Shakh river. Both the Russians and the Japanese are entrenching their positions. The outposts are within 700 yards of each other and less than four miles separates the main armies. The scarcity of fuel is causing the soldiers to suffer greatly with the cold.

## MORE TROOPS FOR JAPS.

Oyama Preparing to Crush Kuropatkin by One Final Blow.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 24.—There is no news of immediate importance from the far east tonight. The indications are that both sides are heavily entrenching, although it is believed Kuropatkin is ready for a forward movement at an early moment unless heavy Japanese reinforcements compel him to resume the defensive.

The reports of Japanese reinforcements arriving, taken in connection with the enforced inactivity of the Russian forces, account for the fact that the weather is felt to be a grave factor in the situation.

There is reason to believe that the Japanese are drawing heavily upon the Port Arthur army, as well as on Japan, in the hope of securing a numerical superiority that will enable Oyama to inflict a crushing blow upon Kuropatkin when hostilities are resumed.

## Snow Falling at Harbin.

Harbin, Oct. 24.—A number of Japanese prisoners have been brought here. The Japanese are heavily fortifying the village of Lamtung. It is reported that the Russians buried 700 Japanese who were killed at Lone Tree. Snow is falling.

## RATES ADVANCED.

Slack Business on Yukon Makes Travel Expensive.

Dawson, Oct. 24.—The passenger rate from Dawson to White Horse was advanced by the White Pass Saturday to \$75 first class and \$55 second class. The recent rate is \$50 first class and \$40 second. The reason given for the advance is that the steamers are carrying only half or less than half as much freight as in the summer and are operating under heavier expense and risk during the last of the season, and since earnings cannot be kept up one way an endeavor will be made to partly keep them up another. Shallow water makes it impossible to carry as much freight now as in summer, and has made the length of trips of the boats much longer. An average of twenty-five to one hundred people have been leaving here for the outside every day for the last ten days.

## WALTON FOUND GUILTY.

Youthful Assailant of Policeman Nelson Convicted by Jury.

Portland, Oct. 24.—Charles W. Walton, the 17-year-old boy robber, who shot and seriously wounded Policeman Nelson September 1, while attempting to hold up a street car, was today found guilty of assault with intent to kill. As soon as the case went to the jury, a second charge, attempted highway robbery, was called. The maximum penalty for the two crimes together is 30 years.

## GREAT BRITAIN DEMANDS INSTANT REPARATION FOR ATTACK ON FISHING FLEET

Sends Urgent Note to St. Petersburg Containing Statement That Situation Must Be Promptly Met.

Arriving Captain Says Admiral of Fishing Boats Repeatedly Signaled War Vessels, Which Only Increased Bombardment —Russians Fired, Italian Ambassador Says, Because They Feared Jap Attack.

London, Oct. 24.—Great Britain today sent a long and urgent note to the Russian government, officially detailing the circumstances of the amazing and unexplainable attack by the Russian squadron during the night of October 21 on British fishing boats in the North sea. The text of the note was not given out, but it is officially stated it contains the significant announcement that the situation is one which, in the opinion of his majesty's government, does not brook delay.

Meanwhile the conservative public and the press are remarkably unimpressed. As usual, the jingo element demands war, and even in official quarters some go so far as to say that it may be necessary to stop the Pacific fleet pending settlement of the whole affair, though this extreme measure, it is believed, will not be necessary. Everywhere there is evidence of the very positive opinion that this is no time for the usual diplomatic dillydallying, and that there must be no delay and no limit set by Russia to her apology or extent to the compensation for the sufferers by what King Edward himself terms "the unwarranted action" of the Baltic squadron's commanders.

The deep resentment of the whole British public, however, was reflected by the incident at Victoria station tonight on the arrival of Count Beckendorff from the continent. There is no attempt anywhere among men of responsibility to magnify the occurrence into a deliberate act of war, but in view of the present inability to find an explanation there is being poured upon the heads of the officers of the squadron a flood of invective and insinuation, though incompetence first and thereafter complete panic are the most generally accepted explanations.

## No Word From St. Petersburg.

Thus far no official word has been received from St. Petersburg as to the attitude of the Russian government. The fact that it had been decided during the day to prepare a semi-official note expressing the regret of the Russian government and its willingness to make reparation was communicated by the Associated Press to Lord Lansdowne, and this was the first information on the subject received from St. Petersburg. The absence during the day of Count Beckendorff necessarily caused some delay, but the Russian charge d'affaires, who called at the foreign office on request by a note from Lansdowne, unofficially expressed deep regret, and, as far as possible, for him to go, gave assurance of speedy action on the part of the Russian government. Lansdowne asked M. Sansonoff, the charge, if he could offer any explanation of the affair, and the latter replied that he knew only what appeared in the papers. Lansdowne gave no suggestion as to what might be done in the matter. At the Russian embassy it was stated that the "whole affair was so obviously a mistake that Russia's course was plainly indicated—namely, apology and ample compensation."

All eyes are now turned toward St. Petersburg awaiting word from the Russian government.

## Story of Bombardment.

The casualties during the one-sided bombardment off Dogger bank can be correctly stated since the arrival at London this evening of the carrying ship Swift, reporting the safety of the missing trawlers. Her captain says: "The Russians gave not the slightest warning prior to the commencement of the firing. The admiral of the fishing fleet sent up a rocket of warning, and then the firing commenced again. He sent up four green rockets, but this only seemed to increase the ferocity of the bombardment. The

poor marksmanship of the Russian gunners was the only thing that saved the entire fleet."

At the inquest at Hull today it was stated that one vessel, the Crane, was sunk and four or five more or less damaged.

## EXPLAINS ACT OF FLEET.

Russian Says He Suspects Japs Really Made Attack on It.

Rome, Oct. 24.—The Russian embassy explains the attack of the Russian squadron on the Hull fishing fleet by the statement that a report was received at St. Petersburg that the Japanese would try to injure the Russian ships with explosives thrown from fishing boats.

Indeed, the ambassador said, he suspected the squadron had opened fire only after an attempt had been made to attack some of the ships.

## COUNT BECKENDORFF HOOTED.

Crowd Makes Demonstration Upon His Arrival at London.

London, Oct. 24.—A hostile demonstration occurred at Victoria station tonight on the arrival of Count Beckendorff, the Russian ambassador. The crowd hooted him. Attempts were made to break the windows of his carriage.

The crowd followed him almost into the embassy. Fortunately, nothing resulted, yet throughout the night a special force of police was compelled to guard the Russian embassy.

Beckendorff has always been regarded as a friend of peace and as much opposed as Count Lansdowne to the Russo-Japanese war. Indeed, he is almost anglophile in sentiment.

After escaping from the hostile crowd that met him at the station, he drove at a gallop to the embassy. Half a dozen rowdies followed, but the ambassador arrived unharmed. The pursuers encountered a cordon of police that had been hurriedly dispatched to guard the embassy. After singing "Rule Britannia," the disturbers dispersed.

Prince Sviatoholk, cousin of the new Russian minister of the interior and secretary of the embassy, says the attack on the trawlers was obviously an act of war or a great mistake, and that, as no sensible man could think it an act of war, it was therefore a mistake, and, when a mistake is made, all one can do is to apologize and pay for it.

Neither the trawler nor tonight's affair is likely to produce a clash between the two powers.

## A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.

Pall Mall Gazette's Characterization of the Russian Squadron.

London, Oct. 24.—The Pall Mall Gazette, which accurately reflects popular sentiment regarding the North sea incident, says:

"The British government can not run the risk of a repetition of the outrage, which might send a big liner full of men, women and children to the bottom of the sea. If it is possible for the British government to give orders for the rest of the voyage, the Russian squadron shall be accompanied and shepherded by British warships, whose duty it will be to steady the nerves of the Russian admiral by the clear intimation that the first shot fired at a British vessel will be regarded as an act of war."

"Not only must Russia make humble apology, but England must apply the material force of her sea power to provide that there shall be no repetition of the offense. The Russian squadron, moreover, is not manned by seasoned officers and men, for the flow;

of the Russian navy is, or was, in the far east. A scratchpack of more or less incompetent people are navigating a still more incompetent squadron to almost certain destruction, and they know it."

The attack on the trawlers, the Pall Mall Gazette says, "affords proof positive that the Russian squadron is a dangerous lunatic and a terror to all in its vicinity."

## RUSSIANS WERE NERVOUS.

Fear for Safety of Fleet in Danish Waters.

New York, Oct. 24.—The Danish papers state that the Russian officers showed much nervousness during the passage of the second Pacific squadron through the narrow Danish waters, says a Times dispatch from Copenhagen. It is declared they were afraid of striking Japanese mines.

It was not believed in Copenhagen that any danger existed, especially in view of the precautions taken by the Danish authorities. Even in the smallest provincial towns every traveler and foreigner was watched with vigilance.

## PAPERS ARE UNANIMOUS.

Demand that Officers Responsible for Incident Be Punished.

London, Oct. 25.—The feature of the editorials this morning is the practically unanimous demand that the government insist upon the punishment of the Russian officers responsible for the Dogger bank affair. Without this, it is argued, the seas are unsafe for the peaceable vessel.

## CHARYBDIS IN READINESS.

Cruiser Prepared to Depart for England at Moment's Notice.

St. Johns, N. F., Oct. 24.—The British cruiser Charybdis received orders this evening to be in readiness to proceed to England at a moment's notice. The training ship Calypso was ordered to arrange for the mobilization of 500 men of the Newfoundland naval reserve. There is much excitement.

## Supply Ships Damaged.

London, Oct. 24.—The steamship Esperanza, due to sail from Barry with provisions for the Russian Baltic fleet, was found today in a sinking condition. The hull was pierced below the water line. The injury is not explained. It is suggested that it was the act of someone out of resentment for the North sea incident.

## Russian Vessels Leave French Port.

Cherbourg, Oct. 24.—Four Russian torpedo boats and a Russian transport sailed this evening. There are no longer any Russian vessels in this port.

## Three Vessels Sighted.

Plymouth, Oct. 24.—The signal station at Prawl Point telegraphs that a Russian battleship and two cruisers passed this morning going west.

## ATTEMPT AT BLACKMAIL.

Demand \$5000 From New York Hotel Proprietor.

New York, Oct. 24.—Three letters, each containing a demand for \$5000 under penalty of death or injury to himself and family for refusal, are reported to have been received by the proprietor of a hotel in upper Fifth avenue. Guests of the hostelry, one of the richest in the country, were startled last Wednesday morning by an explosion. Inquirers were told that the noise was caused by the bursting of an electric light globe, but it now develops, according to the Herald, that the would-be blackmailers, having failed to carry out their plan, set off a light charge of some explosive outside the proprietor's apartments on the fourth floor of the hotel. The present police theory points to the attempt as the work of an employee of the hotel.

Half a dozen city detectives have been at work on the case for some days. When the second letter was received they disguised a man to appear like the hotel proprietor and had him follow the letter writing instructions, dropping a package supposed to contain \$5000 at a given place. The detectives were secreted for several hours where they could observe the neighborhood but no one appeared to take the letter and the next day a fresh threat was received stating that the ruse was known to the writer.

## NEW CANON AGREED ON AT BOSTON

Episcopal Convention Settles the Mooted Remarriage Question by Accepting Amendments of Bishops.

Leaves Only One Condition for Marriage of Persons Who Have Been Divorced.

## EVIDENCE MUST BE STRONG

Minister May, at His Discretion, Decline to Perform Ceremony for Divorcees Who Apply Under Rule.

Boston, Oct. 24.—An agreement on the divorce question was reached today by the house of bishops and house of deputies of the Episcopal convention. That section of the canon bearing directly on the remarriage of divorced persons, which was amended by the bishops Saturday, was assented to by the deputies today and becomes effective at once.

The section provides that no marriage of divorced persons shall be solemnized excepting in the case of the innocent party where the charge is adultery. In any case, marriage is not to take place within one year, and satisfactory evidence, including a copy of the court's decree, if possible, must be laid before the ecclesiastical authority, and the ecclesiastical authority shall declare that the within applicant has conformed to the requirements of the canon. The canon provides, further, that it shall be within the discretion of any minister to decline to solemnize any such marriage.

The house of deputies rejected a resolution to strike out the words "Protestant Episcopal" on the title page of the common prayer book.

Both houses appointed a joint commission to consider the advisability of selecting a presiding bishop of the church. The committee will report at the next convention.

The convention will adjourn finally tomorrow.

## COLORADO'S FINE SPEED.

New Battleship Maintains an Average of 22.26 Knots an Hour.

Boston, Oct. 24.—The cruiser Colorado, built by Cramp & Sons, today in an official test covered 88 nautical miles in 3 hours, 57 minutes and 7 seconds, maintaining an hourly speed of 22.25 knots, the builders' contract. It is thought tide corrections will increase the average slightly.

The highest speed was 23.33 knots. In turning and describing the figure "3" and in other maneuvering tests the ship gave splendid satisfaction, particularly in the complete turn, which was made in a circle the diameter of which was less than twice the length of the cruiser.

## MAY BAR ALASKA INDIANS.

Commissioner Says They Are Not Entitled to School Privileges.

Washington, Oct. 24.—If the plans of the commissioner of Indian affairs are carried out the Alaska natives who are attending schools at Carlisle, Pa., and Salem, Ore., will be sent home, and no more native boys or girls from the territory will be permitted to those institutions. Commissioner Jones takes the ground that the Alaska natives are not Indians within the meaning of the law providing for the education of Indians in the United States, and he holds that these natives have no right to enjoy the privileges of the Carlisle and Salem schools.

There are now fifty Alaska natives at Carlisle, and eight or ten at Salem. At Carlisle, where the school has become famous for what it has accomplished in the way of Indian education, all but one of the Alaskans has taken at least a fair stand, and the one exception has ranked well enough to pass examinations and maintain his place.